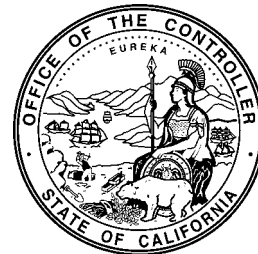


Steve Westly California State Controller



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STATE CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY NAMES CHIEF OF STAFF AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Sacramento, March 24, 2003 – State Controller Steve Westly has announced two additions to his executive staff. Greg Larson, Chief of Staff, will oversee day-to-day operations of the State Controller's Office; Debbie Beltram, Legislative Director, will help implement the Controller's legislative and budget agenda.

Larson has an extensive background in public management and technology. He was City Manager of Milpitas, Deputy City Manager of San Jose and General Manager and CIO for the City of Scottsdale. He also served as President and CEO of United Way Silicon Valley through January 2001. Earlier in his career, Larson worked for Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, Lieutenant Governor Leo McCarthy, Congressman Norm Mineta, and San Jose Mayor Tom McEnery. Larson earned a B.A. from Stanford University, where he met Westly more than 20 years ago.

"Greg has very strong public management skills that will serve him and the Controller's Office well," Westly noted. "The actions we take in Sacramento have an important impact on cities and counties, and Greg's input will help identify the right decisions during the State's fiscal crisis," said Westly.

"In finding solutions to the budget crisis we have a chance to make some positive changes that will affect all Californians," said Larson. "This is an opportunity for me to help implement the vision of a Controller who I know has great things in mind for California."

Beltram has served as a top advisor to several California lawmakers, most recently Senator Richard Polanco and former Senator Steve Peace. She was also a Senior Consultant to the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee while Peace was Chairman. At one point, Beltram also ran her own legislative consulting firm. Prior to that she worked for 14 years in the Assembly.

"Debbie knows the State Capitol inside and out, and she has excellent knowledge of the budget process and state finance issues," said Controller Westly. "I am delighted to have her on my staff. Her expertise and leadership will be a tremendous asset to the Controller's Office."

As Legislative Director, Beltram will help develop and implement the Controller's legislative and budget agenda. She will also serve as the Controller's liaison to lawmakers and other government agencies.

"California will be dealing with the budget crisis for several years, and that is a priority for the Controller," said Beltram. "This is a perfect opportunity for me to use my legislative and fiscal knowledge to help improve California and the budget system."

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